

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 AID-05 IGA-02 L-03 MC-02 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 EA-07 H-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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R 101045Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5918

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 3432

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS NP

SUBJ: NEPALESE REQUEST FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE
FOR NON-LETHAL MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: STATE 195671

1. EMBASSY SURPRISED AT AMBASSADOR KHATRI'S REQUEST, AS DATT AGAIN TLD NEPAL ARMY IN FEBRUARY 1976 THERE WAS NO CHANCE FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE AND NO CHANCE FOR CREDITS WITHIN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM, FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS DATT HAD WITH DENNIS KUX. SINCE THEN HMG HAS NOT ASKED DATT FOR GRANT AID OR FMS EQUIPMENT. IN NORMAL DIALOGUE WITH ARMY, DATT KNOWS SOVIET MILATT OFFERED ROYAL NEPALESE ARMY (RNA) MILITARY EQUIPMENT IF THEY WOULD ACCEPT IT THROUGH INDIA, WHICH CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF SAID WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE. IN EARLY JUNE CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF TOLD DATT PRC WAS PROVIDING SOME ADDITIONAL RADIOS, SPARE PARTS AND BATTERIES. WE STILL HAVE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION ON RESULTS OF FIELD MARSHALL NIR'S MAY/JUNE VISIT TO CHINA. ONE REPORT INDICATES THEY OFFERED RNA CHINESE CARBINES AND THE FIELD MARSHALL WAS TO TAKE THIS UNDER ADVISEMENT.

2. COMMENT: IT IS HARDLY CONCEIVABLE THAT THE PALACE WOULD
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HAVE INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR KHATRI TO MAKE APPROACH WITHOUT

KNOWLEDGE OF RNA AND THAT EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY ALL BUT REJECTED POSSIBILITY OF GRANT AID. DATT ON INSTRUCTIONS DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IF RNA WANTED TO MAKE FORMAL WRITTEN REQUEST THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE FORWARDED FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION, EVEN THOUGH PROSPECTS WERE EXTREMELY POOR FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION.

3. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT GON STILL SEEKS MILITARY EQUIPMENT INDEPENDENCE OF INDIA, TO THE POINT THEY WILL ACCEPT GRANT AID FROM ANYBODY. POSSIBLY GON DID NOT GET AS MUCH AS THEY WANTED OUT OF PRC VISIT OF FIELD MARSHALL NIR.

4. EMBASSY NOT AWARE OF ANY NEW ARGUMENTS TO CHANGE POSITION WASHINGTON HAS TAKEN AGAINST FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ROYAL ARMY, OTHER THAN ANNUAL \$35 THOUSAND TRAINING GRANT.

5. AS SIDELIGHT TO ALL OF ABOVE THERE IS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT A NEW GON BUDGET INCLUDES 2W LAKHS (\$177,000) FOR PURCHASE OF AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS. THIS RELATES BACK TO ORIGINAL MAY 1975 APPROACHES BY NEPALESE MILITARY ATTACHE TO PENTAGON AND SUBSEQUENT RNA APPROACH TO U.S. DATT WHICH RESULTED IN INFORMAL DISAPPROVAL.
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